



Department of State

EYES ONLY  
REF ID: A670071INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION NODS-00 COPY 7 OF 15 COPIES

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7385  
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

SECRET BUENOS AIRES 7073

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
 TAGS: OVIP PGOV PDIP AR  
 SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT VIDELA  
 REFS: A) STATE 226556 / B) BUENOS AIRES 7065V

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING WITH GENERAL VIOLA THIS EVENING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF PARAGRAPH EVEN REFTEL A.

2. GENERAL VIOLA RECEIVED ME SMILING BROADLY AND IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THE OBSERVATION THAT HE BELIEVED THE ROME MEETING HAD GONE VERY WELL AND THAT HE NOW BELIEVED THAT THE US DOES VALUE ITS RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. I ASSURED HIM THAT THIS HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE BUT THAT OUR EFFORTS HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN WELL UNDERSTOOD. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE ALSO WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE ROME MEETING.

3. WE MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO THE TOPIC OF A POSSIBLE VISIT OF THE IAHR AND I ASKED HIM IF THIS WOULD RUN INTO TROUBLE IN THE JUNTA. VIOLA SAID ABSOLUTELY NOT. IT WAS AN INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA AND HE (VIOLA) FULLY SUPPORTED IT. WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT THE TIMING

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With concurrence of:

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IPS by Date 1-7-16

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OF A VISIT AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT, HE SAID THAT THESE WERE MATTERS FOR THE PRESIDENT TO WORK OUT BUT HE BELIEVED THE PRESIDENT FELT HE COULD ARRANGE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT BY MID-OCTOBER AND THAT THEY WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO A VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY TOWARD THE END OF OCTOBER.

4. VIOLA CLEARLY INDICATED HE HAD RECEIVED SOME  
POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM THE USG, REFERRING TO  
THE RELEASE OF FMS PURCHASES. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS  
SOME INDICATION THAT THE US WAS SERIOUS ABOUT WISHING  
BETTER TIES WITH ARGENTINA. HE THEN OBSERVED THAT WE  
WOULD DEFINITELY SEE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD SOON. (WE UNDERSTAND ANOTHER LIST OF  
ABOUT 65 PRISONER RELEASES IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND  
AND THAT VIOLA IS PERSONALLY CLAMPING DOWN ON COUNTER-  
TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN THE 1ST CORPS.)

5. I TOLD VIOLA I HAD A HALF DOZEN FORMER ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND AMBASSADORS TO LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE TODAY AND WE HAD A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE

IAHRC AND WHETHER A VISIT WOULD IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF REPORTING BY THE COMMISSION. THEY WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR VIEW THAT A COMMISSION VISIT WOULD ON BALANCE BE DESIRABLE, TWO OF THEM EVEN UNDERTOOK TO BUILD UP FAVORABLE PUBLIC OPINION TO THIS END IN THEIR PRESS AND MAGAZINE COLUMNS. VIOLA WAS INTRIGUED AT THIS NEWS. HIS STATEMENT THAT THE IAHRC WOULD VISIT WAS FLAT AND UNQUALIFIED.

6. WHEN WE TOOK UP THE MATTER OF A POSSIBLE WASHINGTON VISIT FOR LT. COLONEL CERDA, WHOM VIOLA DESCRIBED AS

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A BRIGHT LAWYER "IN WHOM WE HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE" VIOLA SAID HE WOULD ASK CERDA TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 10 WITH A VIEW TOWARD ARRANGING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING DAY. THOUGH THE NOTICE IS SHORT THIS COULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GIVE CERDA MORE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE VAKY VISIT.

7. I WILL BE SEEING YOFRE LATER THIS EVENING TO FURTHER CONFIRM WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PROCEEDING CABLE ON THIS TOPIC (REFTEL B).  
CASTRO

NOTE: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE BY OC/T.

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HA Subject File

Argus file - Aug 9 Testimony